

Dear Sir/Mme:

I have hope that CA Agriculture will move in a more humane, organic direction. I am a Professor at University of San Francisco as well as work at an environmental engineering firm, ARCADIS. What is clear when I teach and when I talk to the many people at work and in my life is that none want any animals harmed in order to eat meat. Most have had no idea of the conditions of large and/or factory farms. They were also unaware that there is little protection for animals on farms. Thus, most of these folks, including myself, want farms to go back to small farms that provide animals with lots of room to move around and provide more pleasurable living for these animals. None want these animals in cages or confinement and given lots of antibiotics or other drugs in order to prevent diseases in these conditions. None want animals mutilated in any way in order to keep large crowded living conditions. None want the male chicks thrown out or killed in order to have lots of producing female hens. None want huge pollution problems caused by agricultural runoff. All want the methane recycled into energy, more wind energy and solar for these farms. All want more regulation.

Basically, none of the people I have asked, taught or talked to want the current large agricultural farms, especially those that are CAFOs. They want smaller organic, green farms that treat all animals humanely. Are they willing to pay more? Yes, they all say they are and they say that the USDA could subsidize the poor's ability to eat meat from these kind of farms. They would also like the USDA and CA when possible, to stop promoting meat eating as critical to people's health. The fact is, its causing a lot of unhealth and contributes to rising medical costs.

In this group there were 10 vegetarians and 2 vegans. Many of the above students said they would like to cut down their meat consumption and occasionally eat not meat at all due to the fact of meat consumption on health, the environment, the animals and society.

CA could be the leader in small, organic, humane, green farms. It would be cutting edge, spread out the wealth from the current agribusiness industry, and be extremely marketable to a country very worried about global warming and pollution. And, polls are showing that once people are informed about the conditions and "regulations" of CAFOs, they want something different--more humane and kinder to the animals.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Harrington